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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE SMALL ISLAND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, TO BE HELD AT ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, FROM 21 TO 23 MAY 1997

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action "aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", in which, inter alia, the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.[1]

2. In its resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 1997, including, inter alia, the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee, and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEMINAR

3. The Caribbean Regional Seminar will be held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997.

III. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

4. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their constitutional evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000. The Seminar will also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

5. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

6. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General

Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000.

7. Participants will be required to submit papers, which will include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions on the topics specified in the agenda as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee.

IV. AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR

8. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

(a) Constitutional developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the context of the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(b) The role of the Special Committee in assisting the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the democratic processes of popular consultations in the Territories;

(c) Legitimate options for self-determination and their modalities, including forms and methods of popular consultation aiming at ascertaining the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories regarding their future political status and the role of the United Nations in that regard;

(d) Ways and means of overcoming particular circumstances facing Non-Self Governing Territories, including lack of socio-economic progress and illicit activities, such as drug trafficking, money laundering and smuggling of funds, which impede the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(e) The rights of indigenous populations of the Non Self-Governing Territories within the context of the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(f) Strengthening of cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers with a view to assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories in constitutional evolution towards the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(g) Participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and subregional organizations as an important means of attaining sustainable socio-economic development and political advancement;

(h) Political education of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, with particular emphasis on the options for future political status available to them in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

9. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and five other members;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the host Government;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iv) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(v) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vi) Representatives of the non-governmental organizations based in the region, in the Non-Self-Governing Territories or in other territorial entities;

(vii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Appropriate media representatives.

Notes

A/46/634/Rev.1, annex, paras. 4 and 22 (c).

ANNEX

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1

Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2

Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur for the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. The Vice-Chairman will be allocated specific responsibilities by the Chairman. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3

Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4

Languages

The working language of the Seminar shall be English.

Rule 5

Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6

Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 6 of the present guidelines).

Rule 7

Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public.

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8

Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9

Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall adopt a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The report of the Seminar, as well as the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and subsequent submission to the appropriate body (bodies).

Notes

[a] A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

[b] See A/46/634/Rev.1, annex, para. 12 (c).